DOL. You muddy rascal, is that all the comfort
you give me ?

FAL. You make fat rascals[4], mistress Doll.

sion ' In Mother Bombie, a comedy, 1594, the word is frequently used:

" *Sil.* I am none of that *sect*.

" *Can.* Thy loving *sect* is an ancient *sect*, and an honourable " &c.

Since the foregoing quotation was given, I have found *sect* so often printed for *sex* in the old plays, that I suppose these words were anciently synonymous. Thus, in Marston's Insatiate Countess, 1613:

" Deceives our serf of fame and chastity."

Again, in Beaumont and Fletcher's Valentinian:

" - Modesty was made
" When she was first intended : when she blushes
" It is the holiest thing to look upon
" The purest temple of her *sect*, that ever
" Made nature a blest founder."

Again, in Whetstone's Arbour of Vertue, 1576:

" Who, for that these barons so wrought a slaunder to her
sect
" Their foolish rash and judgment false she sharplie did
detect." STEEVENS.

In Middleton's Mad World, my Masters, 1608, (as Dr. Farmer has elsewhere observed,) a courtezan says, " it is the easiest art and cunning for our *sect* to counterfeit sick, that are always full of fits, when we are well." I have therefore no doubt that *sect* was licentiously used by our author, and his contemporaries, for *sex*.

MALONE.

I believe *sect* is here used in its usual sense, and not for *sex*. Falstaff means to say, that all *courtezans*, when their trade is at a stand, are apt to be sick. DOUCE.

" You make fat RASCALS] Falstaff alludes to a phrase of the forest. *Lean* deer are called *rascal* deer. He tells her she calls him wrong, being if he cannot be a *rascal*. JOHNSON.

So, in Beaumont and Fletcher's Knight of the Burning Pestle:

" The heavy hart, the blowing buck, the *rascal*, and the pricket."

Again, in The Two Angry Women of Abington, 1599:

" What take you?—Deer.—You'll ne'er strike *rascal* ?"

Again, in Quarles's Virgin Widow, 1656:

"« And have known a *rascal* from a fat deer."

" *Rascall*, (says Puttenham, p. 150,) is

properly the hunting
terme given to young deere Icane and out
of season and not to
people," STEEVKNS.